THE

Theatrical Observer;

AND

Daily Bills of the Play.

"Nothing extenuate nor set down aught in malice."

No. 700 *Saturday, Feb.* 21, 1824 *Price* 1*d.*

Covent Garden Theatre.

THE excellent Comedy of *Much Ado about Nothing* was finely acted last night. Mr. C. KEMBLE, and Miss CHESTER, as *Benedick*, and *Beatrice*, were applauded to the skies.—The house became well attended in the course of the evening.

Drury Lane Theatre.

SHAKSPEARE's Comedy of *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, was revived here last night, under circumstances of great attraction. It has been cast in the most admirable manner in most of the characters, and has had numerous songs introduced, the words of which are selected from the great Bard's works.

Notwithstanding the incessant fall of rain, the pit, and other doors, were numerously besieged at an early hour, and the house soon after the opening became crowded in every part. This anxiety was met by a corresponding gratification, for rarely has this Comedy been represented in a superior manner; although there were some parts that were susceptible of improvement. Mr. DOWTON appeared as the jolly knight, *Sir John Falstaff*, and gave to the character a rich, if not always natural effect. In the scene with *Ford*, as *Brook*, he came up, in the fullest manner. to the idea of the author, and in general we may say of his acting in this character, that he more clearly displays his knowledge of the part, than possesses powers to give perfect effect to it. There is often a fine touch of humor succeeded by a feebleness of manner, that leaves us only half pleased; and this again is repaired by another turn of excellence, and so it goes on to the end. Mr. DOWTON colours frequently with too fine a touch; whereas if he were to throw his brush at the canvass, he would often succeed better in producing effect in a large Theatre. The *Falstaff*, in *The Merry Wives*, is a less witty mortal than that in *Henry the Fourth*: yet there is a sufficient dash of the latter to sustain the idea of individuality in the one in question; but we laugh more *at* than *with* this earth-larder. Mr. WALLACK acted the jealous *Ford* excellently. Mr. PENLEY was also a very good representative of the easy *Mr. Page*.

The merry ladies were supported by Miss STEPHENS and Miss CUBITT, the former as *Mrs. Ford*, and the latter as *Mrs. Page*; and what between their charming singing, and pleasing acting, they suc-

ceeded most amply. Mr. BRAHAM had little to do as *Fenton* but to walk in and sing his songs, which were delightful, particularly the Ballad of "*My true love is parted from me*," said to be written by MARLOWE. He gave this without an accompaniment, in tones of the most melodious nature, and was rapturously encored. The other pieces that met the same distinction were. "*When it is the time of night*," by Miss CUBITT; the duet by Mr. BRAHAM and Miss POVEY, (who was a pretty "sweet *Ann Page*,") of "*Love like a shadow flies*," and the song of "*Even as the sun*," by Miss STEPHENS. Mr. OXBERRY performed *Justice Shallow* not badly: but Mr. BROWNE's *Sir Hugh Evans*, is hardly rich enough in dialect and humor. Mr. HARLEY's silly *Master Slender*, was an excellent piece of acting.—His awkwardness and diffidence, amidst his exertions to bring out his faculties manfully, and wisely, and lovingly, were highly comic. Mr. GATTIE played *Doctor Caius* very humorously. Mr. YARNOLD rather overdid the part of *Pistol*, but in some instances he was correct and effective. Mrs. HARLOWE made an excellent *Mrs. Quickly*, and cunningly worked upon her several dupes, in respect to the love of "sweet *Anne Page*." The inferior characters were in general well sustained, particularly *Simple*, by Mr. HUGHES, and *Bardolph*, by Mr. G. SMITH. Mine *Host of the Garter*, by Mr. SHERWIN, was also well done. In short, this Comedy, with the very pleasing music, fully succeeded, and was announced for to-night with much applause. *Monsieur Tonson* followed.

Madame CATALANI has arrived in town from a most successful professional tour, in, we are happy to say, excellent health and spirits.

A *New Comedy*, with *Songs*, is in rehearsal, at Covent Garden.

Songs, &c. in The Merry Wives of Windsor.

Song—With thee, fair summer's joys appear, [Sonnets] Braham.
Song—"When it is the time of Night," (Midsummer Nights Dreams) Miss Cubitt.
Song—"Crabbed Age," (Passionate Pilgrim) Miss Stephens.
Song—"Blow, blow, thou wintry wind" (As You Like it) Mr Braham
Duet—"Lover like a shadow flies," (Merry Wives) Mr Braham, and Miss Povey.
Song—It was a lordling's daughter, (Passionate Pilgrim) Miss Cubitt
Duet—All that glitters, (Merc. of Venice) Misses Stephens & Cubitt
Song—"Even as the sun"—(Venus and Adonis) Miss Stephens.
Song—"A Lover's Eyes," (Love's Labour Lost) Braham,
Duet—I know a bank, (Mids. Night's Dream) Misses Cubitt & Povey
Song—My true Love is Parted from me, (Marlow) Braham.
Duet—When Daises pied, (As You Like it) Misses Stephens & Cubitt
Chorus—Trip, trip away, (Mids Night's Dream) Miss Povey, &c. &c
Finale—Away, away, make holiday, (Juno and Ceres]

☞ IT is respectfully suggested to our Friends to be careful, in going to the Theatre, not to be imposed on by an imitation of this Paper.

Printed & Published by E. THOMAS, Denmark-court, Exeter-'change, Strand.

Theatre Royal, Drury Lane.

This Evening, the Comedy of

The Merry Wives of Windsor.

Sir John Falstaff, Mr DOWTON,
Slender, Mr HARLEY, Ford, Mr WALLACK,
Justice Shallow, Mr OXBERRY.
Hugh Evans, Mr BROWNE, Fenton, Mr BRAHAM,
Page, Mr PENLEY, Host, Mr SHERWIN,
Bardolph, Mr G. SMITH, Pistol, Mr YARNOLD,
Nym, Mr WEBSTER, Simple, Mr HUGHES,
Doctor Caius, Mr GATTIE, Robin, Master G. Çarr,
Rugby, Mr W. H. WILLIAMS,
Mrs Ford, Miss STEPHENS,
Anne Page, Miss POVEY, Mrs Quickly, Mrs Harlowe,
Mrs Page, Miss CUBITT,

Lawn before Page's House, with a View of Windsor Castle. The Garter Inn. View in Windsor Forest. Frogmore, with a distant View of Windsor Castle An Ancient Street in Windsor, The Long Walk. Herne's Oak by Moonlight

To conclude with, the Grand Spectacle of

LODOISKA.

POLANDERS.

Prince Lupauski, Mr POWELL, Count Floreski, Mr HORN,
Baron Lovinski. Mr ARCHER, Varbel, Mr HARLEY,
Adolphus, Mr YARNOLD. Gustavus, Mr MAKEEN.
Sebastian, Mr Randall, Michael, Mr Brady, Cassimir, Mr Honnor
Stanislaus, Mr Povey, Pages, Masters Edmonds & Baker,
Princess Lodoiska, Miss POVEY,
Captives, by Messdms. Phillips, Willmott. Webster, &c.

TARTARS.

Kera Khan, Mr WALLACK,
Ithorak. Mr WEBSTER, Khor, Mr G. SMITH,
Kruse, Mr Foster, Japhis, Mr Gibbon, Kajah, Mr Harrold,
Tamuri, Mr D. Smith, Camazin, Mr Plumstead,
The Horde—Mess. Read, Kench, Eames, Goodson, Goodson, jun.

Fortified Castle upon the Borders of the Forest of Ostropol, By Sun-Set—With the gathering of the whole Horde of Tartars & their Cavalry.—Interior of the Castle at day-break.—Hall and Gallery—An attack of Horse and foot takes place, in which The Grand Stud of Horses, will beintroduced.—With the Destruction of The Castle of Lovinski by Fire ! ! !

On Monday, Hamlet, with The Cataract.

Theatre Royal, Covent Garden.

This Evening a new Opera, called,

NATIVE LAND!

Or, the Return from Slavery.

The New Music composed by Mr BISHOP.
The Overture, and some selections from ROSSINI.

Aurelio di Montalto, (a noble Genose) Mr SINCLAIR,
Guiseppo, (a Senator) Mr W. FARREN, Marcello, Mr DURUSET,
Tancredi, (a Naval Commander) Mr COOPER,
Peregrino, (valet to Aurelio) Mr FAWCETT, Pierro, Mr MEARS,
Jacómo, Mr BARNES, Pantucchi, Mr EVANS,
Bonamo, Mr ATKINS, Isidro, Mr HORREBOW,
Luigi, Mr HENRY, Roccó, Mr RYALS, Myrtillo, Miss H. BODEN

Clymante, (betrothed to Aurelio) Miss PATON,
Biondina, (disguised under the name of Cælio) Miss M. TREE,
Lavinia, (Sister to Aurelio) Miss BEAUMONT,
Zanina, (her woman) Miss LOVE Bridemaid, Miss HENRY,

The Choruses by Mess. George, Henry, Ley, Longhurst, Norris,
I. S. & C. Tett, Tinney, Watts, &c.
Mesdms. Appleton, Dunn, Grimaldi, Henry, Pearce, &c.
Ballet by Mess. Austin, Collett, Grant, Heath, O'Brian, Ryals, Sutton
Mesdms. Bates, Boden, Griffiths, Hebbard, Louis,
Romer, Shotter, Thomasin, Twamley, Vedy, Vials, Vine, Wells.

ACT I.—The Mole of Genóa, (T. Grieve) A Chamber at Gueseppo (Pugh) The Palace of Tancredi, (W. Grieve)

ACT II.—A Garden upon the Roof of Clymante's Palace, (Grieve) Chamber at Gueseppo, (Pugh) Clymante's Palace, (Pugh)

ACT III.—Clymante's Palace & Garden by Moonlight, (Grieve) Chamber at Gueseppo, (Pugh) A Hall in Clymante's Palace, (T. Grieve) A Room in Tancredi's Palace, (Grieve) A Grand Hall in Clymante's Palace, (W. Grieve)

After which, a new Farce, called,

The Poachers.

The Principal Characters by

Mr COOPER, Mr JONES, Mr BLANCHARD,
Mr LOUIS, Mr O'BRIAN,
Mrs FAUCIT, Mrs CHATTERLEY, Mrs VINING, & Miss LOVE

On Monday, Hamlet, with the Pantomime.